

A - PRESS RELEASES AND ARTICLES

The first step taken to obtain public involvement was to notify the local newspapers about the Plan. A press release was sent to four local newspapers distributed in the County. The press release contained general information about the Hazard Mitigation Plan, the Town Hall meeting dates and time, and information regarding the web page on the County's web site, which is dedicated to the Plan. The following document is the press release sent to the newspapers regarding the Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Upon receiving the press releases, the local newspapers published articles. The printed articles and also the online internet versions of the articles have been included in this section of the appendix. These articles were published before the first of the four public meetings took place. Some additional follow-up articles were published during the week of the public meetings. The articles are attached in the following pages.

Macomb County Updates Hazard Mitigation Plan

Macomb County has begun an effort to revise and update the County's Hazard Mitigation Plan over the next year and is soliciting public involvement in the process.

Obtaining public involvement is an important aspect of the process and a series of four Town Hall Meetings will be held between June 22 - 30 at different locations across the County to provide information on the process. Nancy M. White, Chair of the Macomb County Board of Commissioners supported the plan by saying, "I would like to encourage every community to participate in a Hazard Mitigation Update planned by the county's Emergency Management Department in June. Your involvement is critical to creating and maintaining an effective response to any disaster."

The Hazard Mitigation Plan is a preventative plan intended to reduce the loss of life and property due to natural, technological, and human related hazards by identifying potential hazards and ways to prevent or minimize damage resulting from these hazards. The County has selected Spalding DeDecker Associates, Inc. (SDA), a civil engineering consulting firm, for the revision and update of the Plan. SDA brings 50 years of experience and knowledge of Macomb County to this effort. Implementation of this plan will qualify Macomb County and its communities for federal funding assistance in the event of a disaster.

These meetings are open to the public and participation is encouraged. The dates and locations for each community are shown below. Any resident is welcome to attend any of the four public hearings if they are unable to attend the hearing closest to them on the scheduled date due to prior engagements.

If you live in:

Shelby, Macomb, Clinton, Fraser,
Roseville, or Eastpointe

Chesterfield, New Baltimore, Mt.
Clemens, Selfridge ANGB, Harrison, St.
Clair Shores, or Lake

Attend this meeting:

Tuesday, June 22, 2004 at 7:00 p.m.
Verkuilen Building
21885 Dunham
Clinton Township, MI

Wednesday, June 23, 2004 at 7:00 p.m.
Verkuilen Building
21885 Dunham
Clinton Township, MI

Warren, Sterling Heights, Center Line, or
Utica

Thursday, June 24, 2004 at 7:00 p.m.
Warren Community Center
5460 Arden
Warren, MI

Bruce, Armada, Richmond, Memphis,
Washington, Ray, Lenox, New Haven, or
Romeo

Wednesday, June 30, 2004 at 7:00 p.m.
Richmond Township Hall
34900 School Section Road
Richmond Township, MI

At the meetings, you will have the opportunity to voice your concerns for your particular community or area. Since hazards do not always fall solely in one county's jurisdiction, involvement from the surrounding communities will also be essential. The communities surrounding Macomb County are also strongly encouraged to participate and provide input and assistance wherever they are capable.

In Michigan, this plan is normally prepared as a cooperative effort at the County level with community participation. Each city and township will be contacted and asked to provide information and input into the development of the Hazard Mitigation Plan. Both countywide and community unique hazards will be identified and addressed in the Hazard Mitigation Plan. Once the plan has been finalized, each community's government will need to review and formally adopt the Macomb County Hazard Mitigation Plan.

To further assist in gaining public input and involvement, a Macomb County Hazard Mitigation Plan website has been established. The website will serve as an avenue for the public to provide input and review and comment on the draft plan. To find out more about the Macomb County Hazard Mitigation Plan, please visit the website at www.macombcounty.mi.gov/oem. For more information on the Town Hall meetings, call the Macomb County Office of Emergency Management at (586) 469-5270.

Incorporating an open public involvement during this planning process is essential to a successful adoption of the plan. Hazards may affect the entire community. Your involvement will ensure a strong base for mitigation activities and boost the chances for lasting accomplishments.

County wants input for disaster prevention plan

By Jessica Schrader

Macomb Daily Special Writer

Macomb County is asking for communities' help to identify area risks for a new Hazard Mitigation Plan. Implementation of the plan is required by Jan. 1, 2006, for the county to be eligible for federal funding assistance in the event of a disaster.

"The state made it a requirement two years ago and finally came down with a deadline, saying you must have a plan or you won't qualify," said Peter Lock, an emergency services aid at the Office of Emergency Management, who is leading the project.

The Hazard Mitigation Plan is a preventive plan intended to reduce the loss of life and property from natural, technological and human related hazards by identifying potential hazards and ways to prevent or minimize their damage.

Macomb County experienced more than \$10 million in storm damage by the flooding in May as some areas dealt with up to 8 feet of water when rainfall causing the Clinton River to overflow

Last summer, millions of residents were affected by the "Blackout of 2003."

With these occurrences still lingering in the minds of county residents, along with fears of terrorist attacks, it may not come as a surprise that Lock and other OEM officials daily receive many calls from concerned residents.

Nancy M. White, chairwoman of the Macomb County Board of Commissioners, said community involvement in the plan will help to create and maintain effective responses to any disaster.

Preparation of the mitigation plan consists of three parts. First, all possible risks and the areas prone to them were identified.

"Then we looked at populations that could be affected and projects that could help alleviate the threats," Lock said.

Public hearings will be held throughout the next two weeks at locations across the county. Community participation is encouraged.

Following the meetings, a formal proposed mitigation plan will be written for state and Federal Emergency Management Agency, or FEMA, consideration. It will

then be adopted by the county board of commissioners and turned over to every jurisdiction for review and adoption, Lock said.

He hopes to have the plan submitted for consideration by the end of October and anticipates approval by the middle of December.

"We can't stop a tornado or a flood, but we can work to lessen the effects," Lock said.

For example, he said, if a trailer park is found to be unsafe during severe weather conditions, a shelter-building project could result, or the county could locate a nearby shelter for the residents.

Continued eligibility allows the county to receive federal grants, such as homeland security grants, which have been as much as \$5 million.

For residents who are unable to attend the meetings, a Web site is expected to be available soon where they can submit their concerns. Lock said the department will look into all suggestions.

This is not the first time Macomb County has considered a hazard mitigation plan. One was developed several years ago that received state approval but was

denied by FEMA.

For more information, call the Macomb County Office of Emergency Management at (586) 469-5270. Meeting times and locations are as follows:

Residents of Shelby Macomb, Clinton, Fraser, Roseville or Eastpointe: Tuesday, June 22 at 7 p.m.

at the Verkuilen Building, 21885 Dunham, Clinton Township; Residents of Chesterfield, New Baltimore, Mount Clemens, Selfridge ANGB, Harrison, St. Clair Shores, or Lake: Wednesday, June 23 at 7 p.m. at the Verkuilen Building; Residents of Warren, Sterling Heights, Center Line or Utica:

Thursday, June 24 at 7 p.m. at the Warren Community Center, 5460 Arden, Warren; Residents of Bruce, Armada, Richmond, Memphis, Washington, Ray, Lenexa, New Haven or Romea: Wednesday, June 30 at 7 p.m. at Richmond Township Hall, 34900 School Section Road, Richmond Township.

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MACOMB

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REGINA H. BOON/Courtesy Press

Bob Badosky, center, a disaster analyst with the Small Business Administration, talks June 3 with Richard and Elizabeth Zavitz. The Zavitzes are living in a motor home in the front yard of their Macomb Township house until they find out what will happen to their property.

Flood victims await word on aid plan

Homes may be razed
and land used as park

By ALEXA CAPELOTO
FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER

Maggie Szabo knew for years her home was an environmental danger zone.

The Clinton River flowed past her backyard, and her house sat low on a dead-end street in Macomb Township. Floods had invaded before. They would again.

Yet not even Szabo was prepared for May's torrential rains, or the 4 feet of water they sent through the brick ranch-style home her father built in 1956.

"It came so fast," Szabo, 52, said early this month as she sloshed across her damp carpet in waders. "I've lost everything."

Now, she and her neighbors on Patnick Drive, a riverfront road near 21 Mile and North Avenue, are pinning their hopes on a proposed plan to raze their ravaged homes and turn the land into public park space.

Until then, every flood watch, like the one in effect until 4 p.m. today for metro Detroit, has them bracing for another assault.

"They should just condemn the house, pay me off and let me start my life over," Szabo said.

Macomb Township officials are considering doing that with the help of federal grant money. The idea is edged with red tape, but it appeals to environmentalists as a green-space savior when water over-bounds its banks.

"Putting parks in floodplains is a really good use of that land," said Jessica Pitelka Opfer, executive director of the Clinton River Watershed Council. "It's taken us

COUNTY SEEKS IDEAS FROM PUBLIC

Macomb County is working on its next hazard mitigation plan and is asking the public to offer ideas at these meetings:

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Four homes on Patnick sit on a floodplain of the Clinton River's North Branch. The land is supposed to contain the river's overflows and prevent flooding to nearby communities, but the homes were put in the way 40 to 50 years ago.

Like Szabo, Macomb County officials knew years ago that Patnick was in trouble. After flooding in February 2001, the county put the street at the top of its 2001 hazard mitigation plan, a list of hot spots in need of federal grants for environmental fixes.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency gave the county \$210,000 to raise the homes above harm's way and required the residents to put up another \$70,000. According to the county, only one resident was interested.

Not only that, no contractors wanted to take on the lifting of four older homes or the county's complex insurance requirements, said Vicki Wolter, assistant direc-

tor of emergency management for Macomb County.

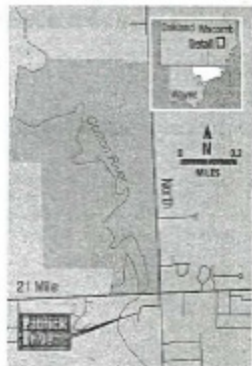
So the federal money sat there, and the residents stayed put. More development rose around them, and more water flowed into the Clinton River.

"As we continue to develop, we pour more concrete down," Opfer said. "All of that water has to go somewhere, and it's no longer soaking into the ground."

Macomb Township is to inform the county whether it can pay its share to buy and demolish the homes, estimated at \$150,000. If the township is willing, the county then has to get federal approval to change the scope of the grant project from elevation to acquisition.

Clinton Township has turned homesites into floodplain park space, and a similar move by Macomb Township may spark a trend, Lou Mioduszewski, the county's emergency management director, said Wednesday.

Last month's floods damaged the four homes on Patnick, along



RICHARD JOHNSON/Courtesy Press

with 489 other homes and 21 businesses in the county. Gov. Jennifer Granholm is expected by the end of this week to request federal emergency aid for Michigan's 23 affected counties.

On Patnick, residents are still cleaning up the mess. Richard Zavitz is living with his wife and daughter in a motor home in his front yard. His waterlogged house now holds only wrecked items.

The 73-year-old retiree said he was in the process of buying a modular home to place on higher ground on his front lawn when the floods hit. When told the township may end up buying the houses, he threw his arms up with a shout of "Yay!"

"If they had said that two and a half years ago, we'd have hugged them and said, 'Here,'" Zavitz said, turning his palms up.

Contact ALEXA CAPELOTO at 586-469-4855 or capeloto@freepress.com.



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Flood victims await word on aid plan

Homes may be razed and land used as park

June 17, 2004

BY ALEXA CAPELATO

FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER

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- For residents of Warren, Sterling Heights, Center Line

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Monday, June 21, 2004

Macomb week ahead

Detroit News staff reports and wire services

Lenox Township: The township's Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing at 7 p.m. Wednesday to consider residents' comments on a request for a variance for a sign for the Living Word Fellowship Church, said Jodi Kethe, the township's clerk. The meeting will be held at the Lenox Township Hall, 63975 Gratiot.

St. Clair Shores: At its 7 p.m. meeting today at City Hall, 27600 Jefferson Circle, the St. Clair Shores City Council will consider a request to adopt ballot language for a street millage. The proposal would be on the Nov. 2 ballot. The council also will consider rezoning property at 25631 Little Mack and the demolition of a building and construction of new medical office building.

Macomb Township: Elected officials in Macomb Township may consider awarding a bid for construction of two new fire stations on North Avenue, near 21 Mile, and a second station on the south side of 25 Mile west of Romeo Plank. The township leaders will meet at 7 p.m. Wednesday in the township offices at 54111 Broughton, Macomb Township.

Sterling Heights: At its meeting at 7 p.m. Thursday at City Hall, 40555 Utica Road, the Sterling Heights Board of Zoning Appeals will consider a variance to allow a wireless communication tower in a residential zone at 14951 14 Mile. Rockpointe Community Church also wants a waiver of the curbing requirement at 38189 Utica.

Armada Township: The Board of Determination for the Hulett Drain will meet at 10 a.m. Thursday on the north side of 34 Mile at the Hulett Drain crossing, east of Romeo Plank, Armada Township, to consider a request to extend, enclose, relocate, widen, straighten and otherwise improve the drain.

Warren: Residents can voice their concerns to the Macomb County Office of Emergency Management about hazards in their community at 7 p.m. Thursday at the Warren Community Center, 5460 Arden, Warren. The public hearing is part of the county's update to the hazard mitigation plan, and is required for the county to be eligible for FEMA funding.

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Thursday, June 24, 2004

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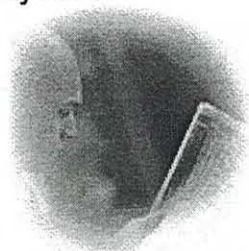
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City News



Opinions sought June 24 on community hazards

Public hearing on hazards in county scheduled for WCC June 24

City residents can give their input **Thursday, June 24 at 7 p.m.** at the Warren Community Center to the Macomb County Office of Emergency Management regarding hazards in their community. The public hearing is part of the county's update to the hazard mitigation plan, and is required for the county to be eligible for FEMA funding for remedial projects related to any of the 27 identified hazards located in Macomb County. The Warren hearing is one of four planned throughout the county. A web site will be launched by the county devoted to this matter – www.macombcountymi.gov – starting June 18.

The Warren Community Center is located at 5460 Arden, south of 14 Mile Road and west off Mound.

News Events

- ◆ Opinions sought
June 24 on
community hazards
- ◆ DARE/PAL golf
outing August 20



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Monday, June 28, 2004

Local Agendas

Disaster plan offers information

By Edward L. Cardenas / The Detroit News

Residents from northern Macomb County are being invited to take part in a plan designed to brace the county for possible disasters.

The county's Hazard Mitigation Plan is intended to reduce the loss of life and damage to property from man-made or natural disasters and is required by the federal government.

"This is not a plan to respond to a disaster," said Pete Locke, emergency services aide with the the Macomb County Office of Emergency Management. "This is a plan to to come up with ideas, programs or action that would reduce the threat or risks of threats."

Representatives from the Office of Emergency Management will hold a meeting at 7 p.m. Wednesday in the Richmond Township Hall, 34900 School Section, Richmond Township, that is open to all county residents.

County officials already have identified 27 hazards and risks — including tornadoes, hazardous material spills and riots — and 97 possible locations these incidents could occur.

By meeting with residents, the county hopes to learn of any possible scenarios they may have missed and who may be affected if an incident were to occur somewhere in the county. Locke said areas of interest include hospitals, schools and other public facilities.

The county has set a Nov. 1 deadline to forward the plan to the state and federal government for review. Once the plan is approved, it will then be considered by the Macomb County Board of Commissioners and every community in the county.

If the county has not approved the plan by Jan. 2005, the county would not be eligible for grants from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

A Web site also has been created for residents to view the plan and submit their views if they cannot attend the meeting. The Web site is www.macombcountymi.gov/oem.

"A lot of people have things to do," said Locke, of the busy summer schedules. "It is hard to break away and show up. (Residents) can go online and give us input."

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